
MARYLAND HEALTH QUALITY AND COST COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 6, 2013

Members in Attendance: Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown (Chair), Lisa Cooper, James Chesley, Richard Davis, Barbara Epke, Nikki Highsmith Vernick, Roger Merrill, Peggy O’Kane, Marcos Pesquera, Albert Reece, Jon Shematek, Kathleen White, and Christine Wray

Members Absent: Secretary Joshua Sharfstein (Vice Chair), Jill Berger

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown called the meeting to order at 9:30am. He welcomed the Council members and guests to the meeting. Minutes from the September 13, 2013 Council meeting were approved.

Health Enterprise Zone Update

The Honorable John A. Hurson, Chair of the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) and Mark Luckner, Executive Director of the CHRC provided an update on the Health Enterprise Zones (HEZs).

After reviewing background information on the formation of the HEZs, a program summary of each of the five HEZs was provided. All five HEZs began program implementation in April 2013 and each HEZ is now providing health care and other support services. Across all five HEZs, a total of eight care delivery sites have been opened or expanded capacity. A total of 74 jobs (direct and indirect) have been created, and of this total, 42 new HEZ practitioners have been hired since the beginning of the program. The update also included information on how the state is supporting the HEZs through the development of a “HEZ Dashboard” as well as direct technical assistance. The presentation ended with information on an independent/external evaluation of the program, which is planned for 2014.

The discussion centered on what outcomes the HEZs will report, including admission rates, patient satisfaction, and population health measures. In particular, the Lieutenant Governor stated that it would be more compelling if the HEZs could target admission rates to specific goals and diseases and Mr. Luckner responded that they are working towards accomplishing that goal.

Wellness and Prevention Workgroup Update

Christine Wray, President of Medstar St. Mary's Hospital and Chair of the Wellness and Prevention Workgroup provided an update on the Wellness and Prevention Workgroup.

Ms. Wray first provided an update on Healthiest Maryland Businesses. There are 238 businesses participating in Healthiest Maryland Businesses, reaching over 250,000 Marylanders, and the program coordinated six regional forums and hired regional coordinators for the program. Ms. Wray also provided an update on the medication therapy management pilot with state employees at State Center. The pilot program held five "lunch and learn" sessions and three blood pressure screenings. As of October 2013, 36 employees showed interest in receiving services, 185 received follow-up, and 67 scheduled appointments. There were 168 medication-related interventions.

Ms. Wray concluded with an update on Million Hearts. Funds were used to provide for coordinators in Baltimore City and Cecil, St. Mary's, and Washington Counties. She also asked the group to save the date for a Million Hearts Symposium on February 19, 2014.

Maryland Hospital Hand Hygiene Initiative

Robert Imhoff, President and CEO, Maryland Patient Safety Center, provided an update on the Maryland Hospital Hand Hygiene Initiative. Participation in the initiative continues at 45 hospitals. An average of 41 hospitals met the 80/30 rule from October 2012 to October 2013. There was an average overall compliance rate of 87% from January to September 2013. Thirty-two hospitals achieved 85% overall compliance rate in September 2013 compared to 12 hospitals in January 2012. The next steps are to continue to work with hospitals to achieve the 80/30 rule, focus on improving performance to reach a goal of 90% compliance, and expand the initiative into different settings such as long-term care.

Discussion focused on how compliance with the 8/30 rule is measured. Typically they get more than 30 observations to develop the rate, but 30 observations is the minimum.

Cultural Competency Update

Dr. Lisa Cooper and Marcos Pesquera provided an update on the Cultural Competency Workgroup Report: Maryland Cultural, Linguistic, and Health Literacy Strategies: A Policy Framework for 2013-2020. The update included an overview of the workgroup, their findings, and the recommendations provided in the report.

Discussion focused on the recommended requirement for academic institutions and providers. The continuing education training was designed for practitioners, and

cultural competency training is incorporated into medical school curriculum. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education has cultural competency requirements, but they are not prescriptive on the number of hours that medical school must provide.

Value Based Insurance Design (VBID) Task Force

There was a motion to pass the VBID Task Force Charter, and it was accepted. It was decided that Task Force members could be appointed or apply, and experts would be brought in to speak with the group, but would not be members. It was also decided that the Task Force would decide if they should be prescriptive about recommended specific clinical services and therapies as carrots or sticks.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.